TELEPHONE (312) 258-5500

## SCHIFF, HARDIN LLP

PATENT DEPARTMENT

6600 SEARS TOWER

233 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

**CONFIRMATION NO.: 8016** 

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Beuthan et al.

09/775,070

**GROUP ART UNIT: 3737** 

FILED:

JUN 2 7 2005

February 1, 2001

EXAMINER: William C. Jung

TITLE:

"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS"

**RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 23, 2005 OFFICE ACTION** 

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

SERIAL NO.:

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	<b>美国教</b>	(4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONA FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	*39	MINUS	**39	х	( ) X 25.00 ( ) X 50.00	
INDEP. CLAIMS	*3	MINUS	3	х	( ) X 10000 ( ) X 20000	
	mended to contain dependent claims y paid for.	7		(') YES	( )\$180.00 ( )\$360.00 ONE TIME	
Sh. K	* * * * *		TOTAL ADDITIONA	L FEE	TIME	\$(

\*\* If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 4, write "0" in Column 5.

If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20 write "20" in this space.

Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend this time for response to the Office Action dated for \_\_\_\_\_ months so that the period for response is extended to \_\_\_\_\_. A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to deposit account No. 501519. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ is attached.

A check for \$\_\_\_ accompanying IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is attached

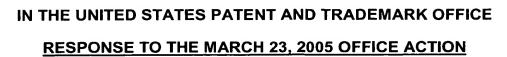
A check for \$\_\_\_ and Petition for Consideration of IDS under 37 CFR 1.97(d) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

When phoning re this application, please call (312) 258-5500.

SCHIFF, HARDIN LLP (Customer Number: 26574)

BY Jane	(28,982)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 2	Service as First Class Mail in an 2313-1450 on June 22, 2005
Steven H	
NAME OF APPLICAN	YT'S ATTORNEY
SIGNA	TURE
June 22,	2005



APPLICANTS:

Beuthan et al.

**CONFIRMATION NO.: 8016** 

**SERIAL NO.:** 

09/775,070

**GROUP ART UNIT: 3737** 

FILED:

JUN 2 7 2005

February 1, 2001

**EXAMINER: William C. Jung** 

TITLE:

"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ARTHRITIS DIAGNOSIS"

## MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

Applicants and their counsel have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated March 23, 2005, but believe the claims as originally filed are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following arguments in support of patentability is therefore respectfully requested.

## REMARKS

The subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application concerns a method and an apparatus for determining a circumference of a digit joint, such as a finger, for evaluating the progress of arthritis. In the inventive method and apparatus, the joint is irradiated with a light source and a two-dimensional projection image from the light attenuated by the joint is recorded, using a camera. The diameter of the joint is then determined from this projection image using an automatic edge detection method, and the circumference of the joint is then calculated from the diameter.